

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], said composition including at least 0.01 ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein at least 90% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 10 microns.

53. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 10 microns.

54. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 500nm.

55. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein the polymeric material is selected from one or more of the following polymers: polyesters, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyolefins, polystyrenes, vinyl polymers, acrylic polymers and copolymers and blends thereof.

56. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein the polymer is poly(ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof; or polypropylene or oriented polypropylene.

57. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], wherein said composition includes at least 2ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 63[[49]], which is a bottle.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) A method of making a container, the method comprising:

(a) selecting a preform for a container wherein said preform has improved reheat characteristics and comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, wherein said polymeric material includes 25 pp, or less of and less than 500 ppm titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material; and

(b) heating the selected preform and forming it into a container.

62. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 61, wherein said polymeric material is poly(ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof and said composition includes at least 2 ppm and less than 500 ppm of titanium nitride, wherein the ratio of the weight of poly(ethylene terephthalate) or copolymer thereof to the weight of titanium nitride is in the range 2×10^3 to 2.5×10^5 .

63. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and

titanium nitride, wherein said polymeric material includes 25ppm or less of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

64. (Previously Presented) A container or a preform according to claim 63, wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container according to claim 63, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 100nm.

67. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container according to claim 63, wherein ~~said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, said container or preform having an L* of at least~~between about 54.47 and 85.50.

68-74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) A preform according to claim 63[[74]], wherein said polymeric material comprises poly(ethylene terephthalate).

76-78. (Cancelled)